

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/711,363**
Amendment filed January 19, 2006
Reply to OA dated September 19, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are currently being examined, of which claims 1-4 have been amended herein, and claims 6 and 7 have been newly added herein. Claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to its subject matter.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by USP 6,665,172 (**Kim**).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Amendments are supported by the original disclosure. Regarding claims 1-3 and 6, as amended, see Figs. 1(a) - 4, for example. Regarding claims 4 and 7, as amended, see Figs. 5(a) - 7(c), for example.

Claim 1, as amended, sets forth: “wherein a contact resistance enlarging portion is formed on the anode lead frame at the portion for junction where a contact area over which the anode lead frame comes into actual contact with the anode lead being smaller than an area of the portion for junction”. Forming the contact resistance enlarging portion at the portion for junction of anode lead frame and anode lead **reduces** the actual contact area from the area of the portion for junction. Since electric current passes the small area of the actual contact of anode lead and anode lead frame at the welding, the density of current increases and greater joule heat is generated at the actual contact area.

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This is an important principle of connecting the lead and frame in this application to stabilize the junction (see paragraphs [0007] and [0032] of the corresponding U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0057889 A1).

Contrary to the inventions claimed in the subject application, **Kim** pertains to laser beam welding and is characterized by **increasing** the contact area between the anode wire and internal surface of groove formed at the anode lead frame so as to improve the heat removing ability and prevent the capacitor element being damaged by the heat (see col. 6, lines 6-11 of **Kim**).

Since **Kim** is directed to how to **increase** the contact area of anode lead and anode lead frame, it cannot teach how to **reduce** the actual contact area of anode and anode lead frame disclosed by the subject application. The object and principle of joining the lead and frame in **Kim** is to the contrary of that of the subject application.

Kim fails to describe, teach, or suggest the following features set forth in claim 1, as amended: “a contact resistance enlarging portion is formed on the anode lead frame at the portion for junction where a contact area over which the anode lead frame comes into actual contact with the anode lead being smaller than an area of the portion for junction”, in combination with the other claimed features.

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Kim fails to describe, teach, or suggest the following features set forth in claim 2, as amended: “a contact resistance enlarging portion is formed on the anode lead at the portion for junction where a contact area over which the anode lead comes into actual contact with the anode lead frame being smaller than an area of the portion for junction”, in combination with the other claimed features.

Kim fails to describe, teach, or suggest the following features set forth in claim 4, as amended: “a capacitor element in which a plate-like anode lead protrudes from one end of an anode member, and a plate-like anode lead frame being laid on and attached to the anode lead by welding forming a portion for junction; wherein a contact resistance enlarging portion is formed at the portion for junction by forming a front end portion of the anode lead frame or the anode lead to an angular shape or a notched shape”, in combination with the other claimed features.

Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, all claims currently being examined are believed to be in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is respectfully requested.

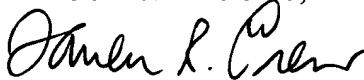
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If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due now or in the future with respect to this application, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time